Ray Rinaldi

Firm Weighs Options On Site of Its Plant

The biggest topic of conversation around town the past few weeks was the possible, hopeful, decision from Fairchild-Weston that they would locate their nuclear division plant somewhere in the Carbondale Area. The fact that several community, township, county and Sewer Authority officials were present at a meeting at the Crystal Lake Hotel Friday night to discuss the situation, appears to me to bode well for area residents. Perhaps I'm reading too much into that meeting, but I wouldn't be at all surprised if Weston did indeed select the Powell estate grounds off Route 106 in Fell Township.

We'll know, I believe, within ten days.

There's been a pall over the city for quite some time, brought about by the shutting down of Tioga and Triangle Pacific, layoffs at several companies in the area, and the seemingly endless spirit-suffocating tirades between the city administration and city council.

The light at the end of the tunnel was lit when Glass Products moved into the vacant Tioga plant and employed approximately 30 from the area, and glowed a little brighter with the news last week that Kartri Sales Co. of Forest City had been granted an option to purchase some five acres of land behind the Armory. The company has projected an employment force of from 40 to 50.

That light has gotten very bright following that meeting at Crystal Lake. Maybe the repair of the town clock with its bell sounding on the hour is telling us something.

We still have some choice sites available for industry in the area. There's several more acres of land behind the Armory, the old Hendrick buildings on Dundaff Street, the D&H yards behind the Ben Mar Restaurant, and that choice parcel of land behind Scotch Motors, now that Allied Services has informed the city they don't want it.

Around Town

I've always been of the opinion that people have a right to know what is going on, not only in the city and school board governments, but in the so-called "private" sector of business and industry. Some of these people in the professional community would have you believe that lilacs and roses are in full bloom 12 months of the year, and get a little upset when you try to point out a few stinkweeds.

It's not good news all the time. It never has been and never will be but these people operate under a philosophy that everyone outside their group is stupid, ignorant children who would go screaming into the streets, tearing their hair in frenzied panic if they were told some disappointing, or, heaven forbid, bad news.

The name of the game is to keep everything quiet until it's an accomplished fact, then, if it's good news, let the people know, call in the newspapers and the media and hand out the glowing releases and let them spread the word among the good people. If it's bad news, keep it quiet. Or else.

Everyone, and I mean everyone, has a stake in what happens in Carbondale, good or bad.

Oh, there are occasions when sensitive negotiations are going on when it's best for all parties concerned to remain silent. But what is wrong with issuing a statement to that effect?

Maybe I'm wrong, but it seems to me that when negotiations do end, when everything is concluded, any attorneys involved are paid handsomely, any banks that are involved will receive their share, any new company or industry will receive tax benefits from the city, from the local school districts, given with 100% cooperation because the community needs the jobs so badly. Fine, it's as it should be.